

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: October 27, 2006

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on October 20, 2006

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Mary A. Gade
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Emergency Response (Mercury Spill), Wilbur Wright College,
Chicago, Illinois**

On October 19, 2006, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Steve Faryan received a call from Chicago Department of the Environment requesting U.S. EPA's assistance in responding to a mercury (Hg) spill at Wright College in Chicago, Illinois. OSCs Anita Boseman and Jaime Brown responded to the request. The spill had occurred during a laboratory experiment. Initial Lumex readings in the areas of the spill ranged from 9,000 to 49,000 nanograms per cubic meter (ng/m³). Surrounding areas were less than 2,500 ng/m³, with action level of 3,000 ng/m³. One person was sent to the hospital for evaluation after being contaminated with the mercury. Wright College's environmental contractor is currently performing cleanup activities. U.S. EPA will continue to screen and monitor Hg levels.

Contacts: Anita Boseman (312-886-6941)
Jaime Brown (312-886-2256)

Time-Critical Removal Initiated, National Automated Systems, Harrisville, Michigan

On October 15, 2006, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Brian Schlieger mobilized an Emergency Rapid Response Services (ERRS) cleanup contractor to the National Automated Systems (NAS) site to begin removal actions. The site is located in an area of residential and commercial development in the village of Harrisville, Michigan, with undeveloped woodlands and Lake Huron located approximately 1000 feet to the east. The NAS facility conducted operations involving the cleaning and refurbishing of conveyor parts for manufacturing operations. The facility has been abandoned for approximately 2 years and vandalism has made the interior of the building easily accessible. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) requested U.S. EPA's assistance at the site with approximately sixty 55-gallon drums, and numerous small to mid-sized chemical containers located onsite. Hazardous substances in the drums and containers include ignitable wastes and heavy metals, such as barium and selenium. As part of the planned removal actions, the building has been secured and all drums and containers have been re-containerized, segregated into waste streams, bulked, and staged for disposal pending approval.

Contact: Brian Schlieger (734-692 7681)

Removal Action Initiated, Striker Road Drum Site, Maineville, Ohio

On October 10, 2006, the U.S. EPA removal action at the Striker Road Drum Site in Maineville, Ohio, was initiated. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) requested assistance at the site in June 2006. On June 14, 2006, U.S. EPA conducted a site investigation and documented subsurface drums containing elevated metals and volatile organic compounds, as well as ignitable wastes. It is anticipated that the site contains up to 1,000 subsurface drums in close proximity to the Deerfield-Hamilton well field. The removal action will include excavation of subsurface drums and off-site disposal.

Contact: Steve Renninger (513-569-7539)

Settlement, Crystal Valley Coop, Lake Crystal, Minnesota

On October 13, 2006, U.S. EPA entered into a Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) with Crystal Valley Coop to resolve

alleged violations of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) reporting requirements.

The Complaint alleged that Crystal Valley Coop failed to immediately notify the National Response Center of a release of 2,200 pounds of ammonia which occurred from their facility on April 16, 2005. Anhydrous ammonia is a CERCLA hazardous substance and an Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) extremely hazardous substance with a 100 pound reportable quantity. The release was caused when a bolt broke off the front running gear on an ammonia nurse tank. Crystal Valley Coop was offered a streamlined enforcement action. The penalties were calculated using the Enforcement Response Policy allowing for all appropriate reduction and the facility received an opportunity to pay the reduced penalties in exchange for entering into this agreement without negotiations. This streamlined approach saved time and money for both parties. In accordance with the Enforcement Response Policy, Crystal Valley Coop was offered a 10 percent reduction for a quick settlement since a settlement in principal was reached within 90 days of the issuance of the complaint and a 25 percent reduction for cooperation and good faith negotiations. This brought the proposed penalties from \$28,907 to \$18,789. Crystal Valley Coop has 30 days to pay the penalty.

Contact: Ruth McNamara (312-353-3193)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Region 5 States/U.S. EPA Sediment Forum, Chicago, Illinois

On September 28, the fourth States/U.S. EPA Sediment Forum call of 2006 was held. Agenda items included an update on Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA) sediment remediation projects. Of note, dredging of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated sediment began on September 8 at the Ashtabula River/Harbor, Ohio, site. In addition, dredging will begin soon at the Tannery Bay site on the St. Mary's River in Michigan. An update was provided on the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) Review. The Sediment Review Working Group provided their report documenting their review of Annex 7 - Dredging, Annex 14 - Contaminated Sediment, and their recommendations to the Agreement Review Committee on September 27. The call concluded with the informative "Around the Region" whereby updates were provided on sediment sites of interest and other projects or issues. The purpose of the Sediment Forum is to promote cross program and interagency

coordination and communication in addressing contaminated sediment sites.

Contact: Bonnie Eleder (312-886-4885)

Conference Call, Quarterly Update on Office of Research and Development Sediment Research Activities, Chicago, Illinois

On October 5, 2006, Bonnie L. Eleder, representing Region 5 as Chair of the Contaminated Sediment Regional Research Advisory Group (CSRAG), participated on the second Office of Research and Development (ORD) Quarterly Update of Contaminated Sediment Research Activities. This informative call provided a forum for each of the labs to provide updates on their key sediment research projects to the CSRAG. The labs had also provided fact sheets for each research project prior to the call. These calls improve communication between ORD labs and the Regions, and provide for Regional input and feedback on the projects.

Contact: Bonnie Eleder (312-886-4885)

Meeting, Western Lake Superior Port Area Committee, Duluth, Michigan

On October 17, 2006, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Michelle Jaster attended the quarterly Western Lake Superior Port Area Committee (PAC) Meeting held at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency office in Duluth, Minnesota. These meetings are hosted by the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Duluth, and are held 3 or 4 times per year. Attendees represent all levels of local, State, and Federal government, as well as local industry. The topics discussed at this meeting included: an overview of the full scale multi-day Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) and Maritime Security exercise held in Duluth in August 2006; new response equipment available in the area through several entities; overviews of several small spills in the area in the last quarter; and updates added to the Western Lake Superior Area Contingency Plan. The next meeting is scheduled for April 2007.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

Meeting, Great Lakes Dredging Team, Chicago, Illinois

On October 3, 2006, the Great Lakes Dredging Team (GLDT) held its annual meeting in Duluth, Minnesota. Agenda topics included:

GLDT Charter Update & Workplan; Regional Sediment Management; Beneficial Use Workgroup Update (provided by Bonnie Eleder); Reinvigorating the Windows Advisory Team; Congressional Activities Update (including Status of Congressional Legislation and Great Lakes Commission Advocacy); State Caucus Report Out; Report out from National Dredging Team and recent Managing Sediments in Watersheds Conference (by Molly Madden, U.S. EPA, National Dredging Team); and a Report out on the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Review, Annexes 7 and 14 (by Dave Cowgill, Great Lakes National Program Office). The meeting ended with a field trip to the Erie Pier Confined Disposal Facility to view the sediment cleaning and sorting operation with the coarser grained, clean material beneficially reused for road maintenance, mine land reclamation, habitat creation, and other purposes. This site was also used to test a new technology to clean dredged material, electrochemical geo-oxidation, which treated contaminated sediment dredged from the Minnesota Slip in Duluth/Superior Harbor. The second part of the field trip was to visit the Stryker Bay Great Lakes Legacy Act Cleanup Project (St. Louis River Interlake Duluth Tar Superfund site). The PowerPoint presentations and other information for the GLDT meeting are available at: <http://glc.org/dredging/scoop/index.html>

Contact: Bonnie Eleder (312-886-4885)

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